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LETTER DATED 13 DECEMBER 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I am writing to advise you that the question of the division of assets and liabilities of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is the subject of separate negotiations conducted in the framework of the Peace Implementation Council with the mediation of Special Negotiator Sir Arthur Watts.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Macedonia have agreed to resolve that question by agreement on the basis of the rules of international law on succession of States (see para. IV of the Joint Declaration of Presidents Slobodan Milošević and Alija Izetbegović, made in Paris on 3 October 1996 (S/1996/830, 7 October 1996); article 5 of the Agreement on Normalization of Relations between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia, signed at Belgrade on 23 August 1996 (S/1996/706, 29 August 1996); article 4 of the Agreement on Regulating the Relations and Improving the Cooperation between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Macedonia, signed at Belgrade on 8 April 1996 (S/1996/250, 8 April 1996)).

The delegation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has assessed that the last Draft Agreement on succession, proposed by Special Negotiator Sir Arthur Watts, is acceptable to it in principle and hopes that an Agreement between five States on succession on that basis could be concluded quickly. To that end, the head of the Yugoslav group on succession issues, Academician Kosta Mihajlović, addressed a letter to Sir Arthur Watts, proposing the continuation of negotiations. The Yugoslav side assesses that, in case of a constructive attitude of other interested States, the negotiations could be concluded within a short period of time.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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